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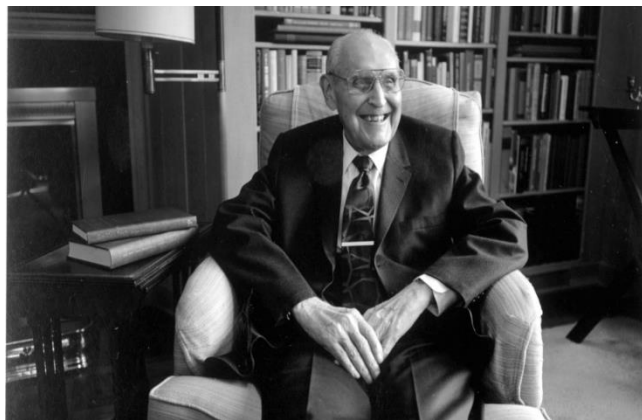
Category: Beaver Memos

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Donor Intent Regarding Science and Spirituality (January 2017)

The following memorandum recounting the history of science funding is provided as background reading, by request. Statements by John Fetzer are matched to funding history in the years he influenced the Institute.

John Fetzer's Donor Intent can be viewed as the roots of the tree, upon which Fetzer grows and expands into the future. Donor Intent is the spiritual nurturance and historical support for the ever-growing 'Fetzer Tree.'



The dual-mission of Science and Spirituality, while John Fetzer was alive, is clear from looking at the Foundation/Institute funding priorities in those early years, as well as from John's own statements.

First, figure 1 (on next page) graphs the annual **Science Funding** as a percentage of overall program funding (the bottom axis comprises the years, and the percentage the vertical axis, with the percent for each year also listed along the bottom). You can see that, from 1984 (when the Tigers were sold for the first major funding the Foundation) through 1989, the Fetzer Foundation science budget was between 88% and 100% of the total Foundation or Institute program budget. The 1988-89 year was the only year the percentage fell below 96%; in that year, it was 88%.

**Figure 1 – Fetzter Science Funding:
Percent of Program Budget (including Fetzter Franklin)**

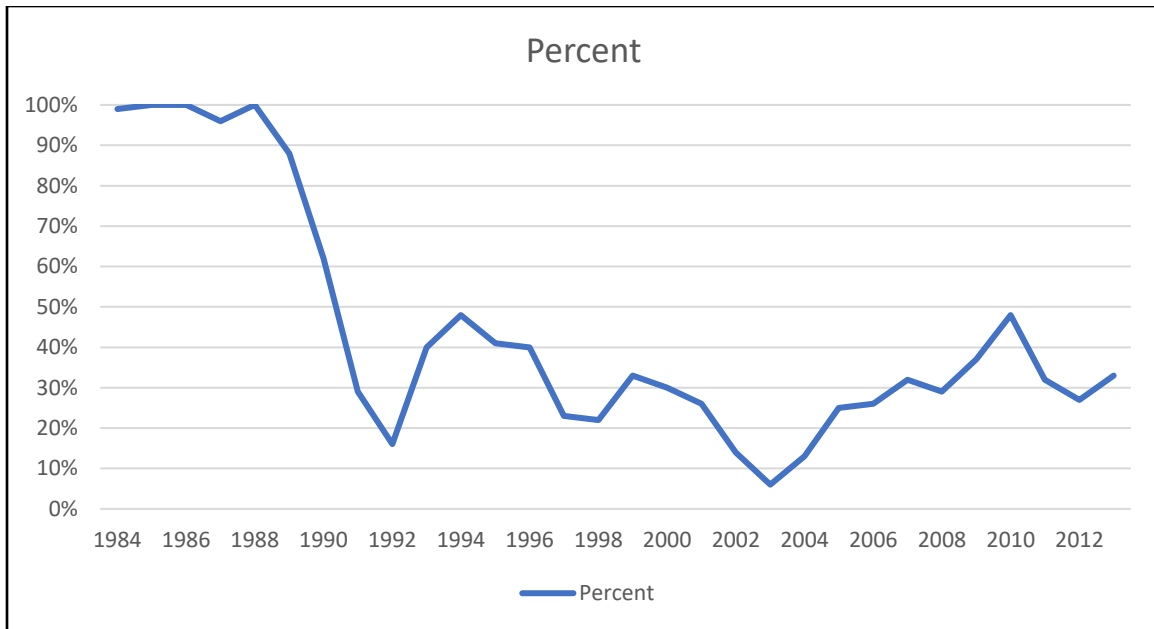
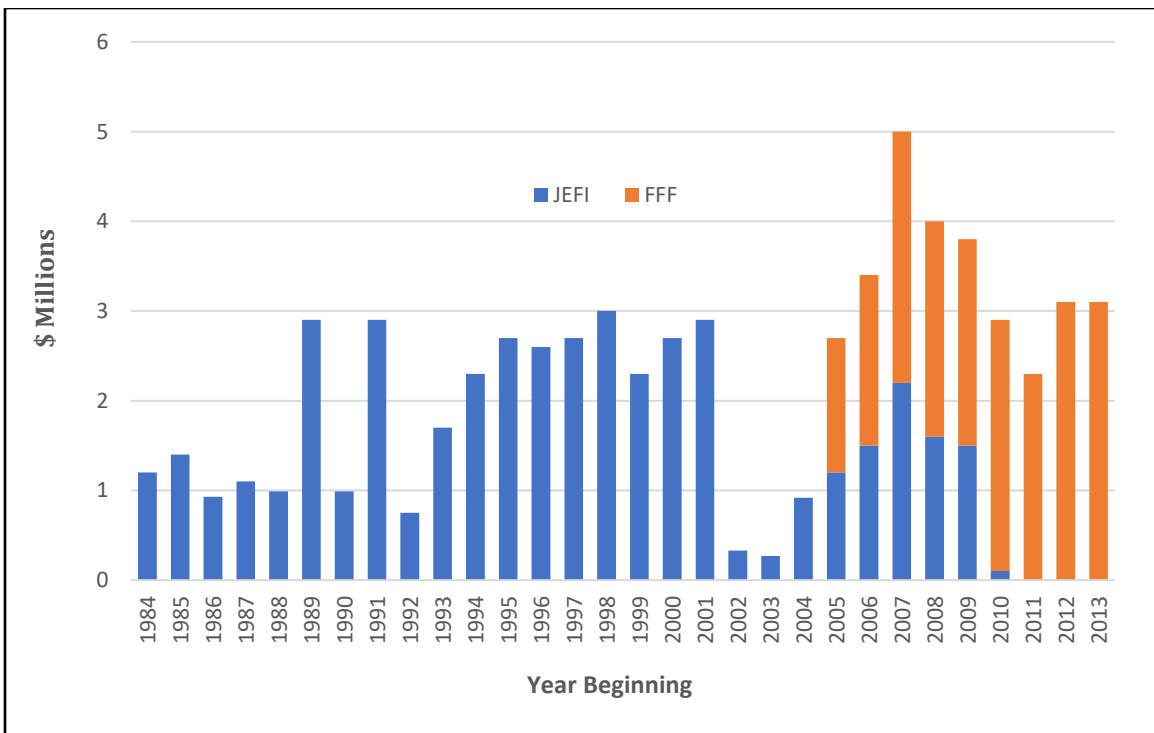


Figure 2. – Annual Fetzter Science Funding 1984 – 2014



I. JEF's intent regarding Science & Spirituality while he was alive

The science funding priority while John was alive is not surprising. As early as 1967, John, in his "This I Believe" paper, was talking of God as *energy*:

Around the Central Sun of our Universe is a huge electronic ring which flashes with perpetual motion and brilliancy ... whirling around the enormous girdle of the intelligent, scintillating, jewel-like opal-tinted flame of the Central Sun within. **It is this nucleus of the great Sun-Globe itself**, revolving upon its own axis, **that constitutes the sublime scene—the Center of the Universe**—the Cause of all Creation, the Universal Mind, the Supreme Principle, the Primal Cause, the Cosmic Field, the Divine Spirit, Infinite Intelligence, **God the Father!**

And so, John's world view *combined* the notions of Science (physics) and Spirituality. A few years after this, in 1973, John informed his board of the mission of his Foundation, and Science and Spirituality took its first form at Fetzer:

After considerable research, time and study, I have conferred with many outstanding scientists throughout the country [~~that~~ who] are attached to certain universities and foundations that are instituting studies in the field of human psychology; some call it **parapsychology ... I have decided this will be a major undertaking of the John E. Fetzer Foundation.**

And in 1986, John further defined his Donor Intent in "A Talk With John Fetzer" with the Foundation's communication director. He was asked, What does his interest in subtle energies—what John called "energies beyond the spectrum"—have to do with science and religion and spirituality? John answered: **"I think one of the ultimate goals of the Foundation is just exactly that —the merging of science with what I prefer to call 'Infinite Energy.'"** He went on to say: **"I think that love is the *core* energy that rules everything.** It is the force field out of the electronic energy of creation. Love is the one ingredient that holds us all together."

Thus John took a rather scientific approach to, and view of, spirituality, even regarding love.

II. What was John Fetzer's Donor Intent regarding Science and Spirituality for the *future* of the Foundation/Institute?

John stated in "May the Force Be With You," an article he wrote in *New Frontier Magazine*, in the October 1989 issue:

I feel that we are on the threshold of a new order, where people will be seeking enlightened change. ... **This will all come about with the infusion of spirituality into science. The Foundation's eventual intent is to integrate the scientific process with spiritual mindfulness.**

He went on to state:

A fundamental key to all this is to conduct this search with a proper line of scientific investigation. We are not only redefining the scientific process, we are also experimenting with it. **From studies in advances physical [advanced physics?], we know that the experimenter becomes *part of* the energy circuit of that being studied.**

John states 'a scientific view of spirituality' for the future, and a *relational* one as well.

III. Donor Intent Regarding Science and Spirituality was a focus of John's last three major memos to his board in 1989-91

Presented next will be statements from John from these last three substantial memos:

"The Founder's Statement" (September 29, 1989)

"Thoughts on Research" (October 10, 1989)

"Review of Past Remarks" (February 13, 1991, just a week before his death)

In these memos are key statements from John regarding science and spirituality.

The Founder's Statement (September 29, 1989):

- **First Principles:** "The John E. Fetzer Foundation supports and provides **research, education, and service** designed to discover and enhance the integral relationships of the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of experience ... This consciousness is one having to do with the collective synthesis, a coming together of the many into the one—recognizing that we are all equal, and all the same and all of one body.
- **An Ordered Focus:** "... in the long term, partnerships in resources, alliances in scientific global networking, and a free exchange of scientific data will emerge. Research and service are final steps which produce the knowledge to share."
- **The Immediate Goal:** John referred to the transition to an 'educational institution,' and then moved on to, "our in-house laboratory," stating, "I am convinced that inspired thought and direction are available to one who dares to put himself in touch with the wisdom available from higher sources. **I believe there are many willing listeners, including an Edison or an Einstein, hidden from normal view, waiting to be brought into manifestation. Many conventional laboratories are manned by young scientists, awaiting the inspiration ...**"

Thoughts on Research (October 10, 1989):

- "If you look into the mystical side of physics you will see that science, perhaps unknowingly, is ever teaching the path of the kundalini, of the chakras, and of the aura, and of the tree of good and evil, and of the tree of knowledge and Light ... In the time of mysticism ... there were great statements of fact presented. It was presented in the consciousness of that day. **Now it is presented through the eyes of quantum physics.**" [Note that John here is 'connecting dots' between spiritual and physical energy.]
- "**In the laboratory, unbiased truth can be pursued.** ... We must search out one avenue, one area, in the beginning, then let the ripple effect have its way to move the energy into the scientific community." [Note that John is making the scientific community a stated audience for his mission.]

Review of Past Remarks (February 13, 1991):

- “You have often heard me say that the Institute will seek to develop a program of research and education in the long term, consisting of partnerships in resources, **alliances in scientific global networking, and a free exchange of scientific data.** Research and service are final steps which produce the knowledge to share.”
- He added, “Suffice it to say, I have long held the view that **energy scientific research that is not accompanied by spirit is suspect** ... [thus John again ties Spirit and science together ... and he goes on to say], I must tell you that I was greatly fortified in my viewpoint when I read the following quote from Einstein: “The most beautiful and most profound emotion we can experience is the mystical. It is the source of all true science.””

III. Conclusion

The foregoing information may help to form an understanding of John E. Fetzer’s priorities.